

Predicted 2010 Apple Harvest Dates

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This season started out early across the whole state. This year, the state is experiencing a compressed crop development. Green Tip was between 2 and 3 weeks ahead of normal from far south to far north. Tree development slowed during the cold weather shortly before bloom that moved into the state but bloom developed ahead of normal for the whole state. What was unique this year is that the whole state was compressed between south and north. Usually, there is a 2 to 3 week difference between SW and NW Michigan, but this year there was only a 7 day difference in bloom dates between SW and NW. Bloom dates were 1 week early in the south and 3 weeks early in the north. Apple maturity for 2010 is expected to be 7 days early in the south and 21 days early in the north. During and after bloom the daily temperatures can be characterized as cold with numerous frost events occurring throughout the state. The state has a very mixed cropland from block to block, but overall the state has a light crop. The post-bloom cold temperatures will delay maturity and light croplands will advance maturity. Because crops are mixed, heavy to light, there will be a mix of maturity. There also was extended bloom in some parts of the state, which will make harvest dates less accurate.

The early bloom and cold weather following bloom, give us predicted harvest dates (Table 1) about 7 to 21 days ahead of normal. These predicted harvest dates are for the center or peak harvest of these varieties for CA storage. This year the 2010 predicted harvest dates are 7 to 21 days ahead of normal ahead of last year's predicted harvest dates (Table 2).

Hot temperatures during July and August will hasten the maturity of some varieties. Gala is notorious for ripening early when late summer temperatures are above normal. Other varieties are less prone to hot temperatures advancing fall maturity. Still other varieties ripen when cold temperatures occur near harvest time.

The normal harvest dates for other varieties are listed in Table 3 for the Grand Rapids area. This year's 2010 predicted dates are a rough estimate based on the McIntosh, Jonathan and Red Delicious predicted dates. Other areas of the state should adjust non-predicted varieties based on their own history.

Table 1. 2010 predicted peak harvest dates

Station	Full bloom date			Predicted harvest date			
	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	Observer
SWMREC	24-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Aug	16-Sep	21-Sep	Shane
Deerfield	26-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	31-Aug	19-Sep	26-Sep	Tritten
Romeo	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	1-Sep	18-Sep	24-Sep	Tritten
Peach Ridge	28-May	30-May	30-May	2-Sep	16-Sep	22-Sep	Schwallier
Ludington	1-May	1-May	3-May	4-Sep	14-Sep	21-Sep	Danilovich
NWMHRS	3-May	4-May	4-May	4-Sep	17-Sep	23-Sep	Rothwell

Table 2. 2010 predicted peak harvest dates compared to normal and last year

Station	Days ahead of normal			Days ahead of last year		
	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	McIntosh	Jons	Reds
SWMREC	11	5	7	5	8	11
Deerfield	8	2	6	5	10	6
Romeo	9	7	8	11	15	14
Peach Ridge	12	10	12	10	18	18
Ludington	14	19	23	17	27	26
NWMHRS	19	23	30	20	21	22
Bloom and Harvest Days between SWMREC and NWMHRS						
Year	Full bloom date			Predicted harvest date		
2010	9	6	5	5	1	2
2009	15	16	16	20	14	13

Table 3. Normal peak harvest dates for varieties for the Grand Rapids area

Variety	Normal date	2010 predicted date
Paulared	24-Aug	12-Aug
Gingergold	26-Aug	14-Aug
Gala	10-Sep	29-Aug
McIntosh	15-Sep	2-Sep
Honeycrisp	18-Sep	6-Sep
Empire	22-Sep	10-Sep
Jonathan	28-Sep	16-Sep
Jonagold	28-Sep	16-Sep
Golden Delicious	2-Oct	20-Sep
Red Delicious	5-Oct	22-Sep
Idared	10-Oct	28-Sep
Rome	15-Oct	3-Oct
Fuji	25-Oct	13-Oct
Braeburn	25-Oct	13-Oct
Goldrush	1-Nov	20-Oct